Task Force on inter-linking of rivers

*20. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details regarding composition of the task Force;

(c) what are the terms of reference of the Task Force;

(d) by when the Task Force is likely to submit its report;

(e) whether the matter has been discussed with the State Governments; and

(f) if so, by when the work on this project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) A Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha was constituted on 13.12.2002. Shri C.C. Patel and Dr. C.D. Thatte, both Retd. Secretaries of the Ministry of Water Resources are Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Task Force respectively. Besides, the Task Force shall comprise of other Members (i) from water deficit States, (ii) from water surplus States, (iii) an economist, (iv) a sociologist and (v) a legal/world wildlife expert.

The terms of reference of the Task Force are as under:

(i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;

(ii) devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;

(iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;

(iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;

(v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and

(vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

The Task Force is scheduled to prepare Action Plan I giving an outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project, etc. by 30th April, 2003 and Action Plan II giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery by 31st July, 2003.

(e) and (f) The Task Force is scheduled to deliberate over the project and to elicit the cooperation of the States by May/June 2003. The Chairman of the Task Force has visited and held informal consultation with several Chief Ministers of concerned States. As per the Milestones prepared by Government on inter-linking of rivers, feasibility studies on the Links and detailed project reports are Scheduled for completion by 31.12.2005 and 31.12.2006 respectively. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year 2016.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Non-privatisation of airports

1. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided against privatisation of four metro airports; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.